

California Electric and Magnetic Fields Program N E W S L E T T E R

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES UPDATE

February/March 2000

PROGRAM EXTENSION GRANTED

On March 10, 2000, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) granted the California EMF Program a no-cost extension, requested by the program last December. The

California EMF Program has been extended until December 31, 2001, under rule 48(b) of the Commission Rules of Practice and Procedure.

The extension was granted subject to the following conditions:

- ✱ DHS shall adhere to the timeline specified in the Gantt Chart filed in its December 23, 1999 Progress Report to the Commission.
- ✱ DHS shall report, in writing to the Commission's Energy Division, any significant delays or changes to the current scope of the projects that would lead to not completing the EMF Program by December 31, 2001.
- ✱ DHS shall submit a progress report to the Commission's Energy Division by December 31, 2000, specifying the status of each of the projects relative to the timelines in the Gantt Chart. This report shall include an up to date Income and Expense Statement like the one provided in the December 23, 1999 report to the Commission.

This extension will allow the program to complete several projects that could not be completed by the program's previous end date.

SAC MEETING

On Friday, February 18, 2000, the program's Stakeholders Advisory Consultants (SAC) held a meeting at the Elihu M. Harris State Office Building in Oakland, California. The program's health educator, Jessica Hecht, called the meeting to order because of the resignation of the previous SAC Chair. After Program staff gave an update of recent activities and milestones, Raymond Neutra reported on the SAP's discussion and unanimous vote approving the Risk Evaluation Guidelines on the previous day. The SAC discussed the SAP vote, and some SAC members voiced concerns about the SAP vote taking place earlier than expected and just after a lunch to which the public was not invited. EMF staff agreed to try to avoid the appearance of an unannounced closed session discussion in future meetings of the SAP.

The SAC then discussed replacing their committee chair after

his recent resignation. The SAC voted to have the Program's health educator chair future meetings in place of electing a new chair from among the SAC core membership. The rest of the meeting was turned over to Detlof von Winterfeldt, who presented a report on his proposed changes to the Power Grid and Land Use Policy Analysis Project in response to comments by stakeholders and other interested parties. After his presentation, there followed a question and answer period covering Dr. von Winterfeldt's project, and the meeting adjourned shortly after 3:00 p.m.

CHANGES IN SAC MEMBERSHIP

There have been two changes to the program's core Stakeholders Advisory Consultants (SAC) membership in the recent past.

1. SAC member and chairperson Gordon Miller resigned from the committee shortly before the program's February meetings; he no longer felt that he could participate because of increases in his other workload. Jeff Jones, of the Port of Oakland, has agreed to join the committee in his place to represent industrial hygienists. At the February SAC meeting, the committee members decided not to choose a new chair from among their number because of the small number of meetings remaining before the end of the program. Instead, the California EMF Program Health Educator will chair future meetings.
2. Henry Clark of the West County Toxics Coalition has taken over as the core SAC representative with a particular interest in environmental justice. He was already the alternate for former environmental justice member Jose Bravo, who has been unable to attend the program's recent meetings.

We appreciate the past involvement of our outgoing SAC members and welcome the new SAC representatives to this important group.

March Events

School Policy Analysis Project Question & Answer Telephone Workshop

10 a.m. Wednesday, March 29, 2000

Contact us for telephone connection information

SCHOOL POLICY ANALYSIS PROJECT PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

The draft School Policy Analysis Project report and computer model are now available, and the public comment period on these materials is underway. The full draft report is available on the program's Web site at <http://www.dnai.com/~emf/research.html>, and the software model should be available on that site in the near future. Hard copies of the report can also be ordered from City Copy Center (telephone (510) 763-0193). The program will be holding a telephone workshop on March 29, 2000, to allow members of the public to ask questions to help them prepare written comments; see information on the workshop elsewhere in this newsletter. If you wish to submit comments on these draft materials, please send them by mail or fax, and direct them to the attention of Jack Collins in our offices, or e-mail them to emfadmin@dnai.com. Please note at the top of the first page of your comments that they are on the School Policy Analysis Project. Comments must be received in the Program's office by the end of business on April 17, 2000.

SAP MEETING

On February 17, 2000, the Scientific Advisory Panel (SAP) for the California EMF Program met at the Elihu M. Harris State Office Building in Oakland, California. The meeting was called, so that the SAP could discuss and vote on the following two items: 1) whether or not the Risk Evaluation Guidelines (REG) were scientifically sound; and 2) whether or not the terminology suggested is appropriate for use in the Risk Evaluation. Ten of the eleven SAP members attended the meeting either in person or by telephone.

After the SAP chair, Warren Winkelstein, convened the meeting and led the introductions of the SAP members, Raymond Neutra and Vincent Del Pizzo presented the revised Risk Evaluation Guidelines and answered questions from SAP members. The SAP and EMF staff then discussed schedules for the upcoming SAC meetings, agreeing that Dr. Neutra will try to make it possible for the SAP to meet again in August, 2000, and that there will definitely be another meeting early in 2001. SAP members discussed the scientific soundness of the REG, the terminology it suggests, and some concerns about it that were raised by program stakeholders. After lunch, the SAP reconvened at 1:30 p.m., and the 10 participating SAP members voted unanimously that 1) the Risk Evaluation Guidelines are scientifically sound, and 2) the terminology used in the Risk Evaluation Guidelines is appropriate. After the vote, the meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

UNDERGROUNDING INVESTIGATION AT THE CPUC

On the order of the legislature, the CPUC is holding workshops that will lead to a legislative report on the pros and cons of

undergrounding powerlines. Many different stakeholders attended these workshops and expressed a wide variety of viewpoints.

Dr. Neutra presented at one of these workshops held on February 10, 2000, in San Francisco. In his talk, Dr. Neutra reviewed the options considered by the Power Grid Policy Project and the stakeholders' discussions about this project.

Recently, Dr. Neutra has also provided general guidance to Mark Ziering, who is coordinating the work on this issue at the CPUC. Mr. Ziering is examining how to approach proprietary information about utility costs for undergrounding so that the range of costs for these projects could be made available without violating the confidentiality of the companies that provided information on the costs of specific projects. In a related task, Mr. Ziering is currently reviewing California utility company databases to determine whether factors such as circuit and component age, local weather, and soil salinity have been included in the utility databases. If so, that information can be used to arrive at a fair comparison of the reliability of different utility companies' overhead and underground powerlines.

RESEARCH UNIT UPDATES

Risk Evaluation Guidelines: The revised risk evaluation guidelines, together with the list of comments and the staff's replies to them, have been approved by the SAP. This project is now complete.

School Policy Analysis: Keith Florig discussed the software model and its use at a workshop on February 16, 2000. The model and draft report are currently being reviewed by the SAC, and the model documentation, with details about the model's construction and use, should be available for review in the near future.

Power Grid/Land Use Policy Analysis: Detlof von Winterfeldt is reviewing the draft final report in the light of the SAC's comments before submitting it to the peer reviewers. The engineering consultants are reviewing the cost estimates contained in the project.

Epidemiology Workshop: Staff have completed the summary of the discussions from the January 1999 workshop. All articles were mailed to the journal *Bioelectromagnetics* on March 15, 2000.

Prospective Miscarriage Study: The Kaiser team has completed its main analysis and has presented the results to the EMF program staff. A report is expected to be mailed to the peer reviewers by the end of March; the peer reviewers will recommend whether the results should be disseminated as they now stand or whether additional work is required before that step.

School Exposure Assessment Survey: This project is complete. A CD with the final report, the data base and the cost

estimate software is available from the program upon request, and hard copies of the report are available for the cost of copying from City Copy Center in Oakland (telephone (510) 763-0193).

Occupational Exposure Study: An error in the statistical analysis has been discovered and corrected, and the validation of the survey is complete. Work on the final report is in progress. Staff expect to receive the report draft in the near future, and it will then undergo peer review.

Policy Integration: The outline of this project has been finalized with the CPUC. No work on this project will be done until the risk evaluation and the policy analyses are substantially completed.

Risk Evaluation: Contractors Walter Rogers, Paul Gailey, and Claire Sherman have all submitted their reports, although Paul Gailey continues to work on some minor reviews of the chicken embryo studies. Research staff have drafted pro and con arguments on childhood and adult leukemia, brain cancer, and reproductive effects.

EMF Program Library: Webb Sprague, with input from the rest of the staff, continues to monitor the literature to keep the Program's EMF library up to date.

EDUCATION AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE UNIT UPDATES

MEETING SUPPORT AND FACILITATION

In the time leading up to the February workshop and meetings, the Education Unit prepared agendas, mailings, handouts, and other meeting materials. In addition, the program's Health Educator facilitated the February 18, 2000, meeting because the regular SAC chairperson, Gordon Miller, resigned from the committee.

PARTICIPATION IN THE CASH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Coalition for Adequate School Housing (CASH) held its annual conference from February 22-24, 2000, in Sacramento. On Tuesday, February 22, 2000, the program staff led a round table discussion titled "Policy Options for Addressing Magnetic Field Exposure in Schools." Between 15 and 20 people from state agencies and local school districts participated in the four half-hour sessions of this round table. As in previous years, the Education Unit staffed a table in the conference's State Resource Room, where we handed out copies of the "EMF Checklist for School Buildings and Grounds Construction" and other school-related program materials.

WEB SITE

The Education Unit, with the help of the program's research associate Webb Sprague, has posted several research unit and the California Department of Health Services

products on our Web site over the past two months. Products now available through the Research Unit Activities and Products page on our site include the final version of the Risk Evaluation Guidelines, the complete School Policy Analysis draft report, the executive summary of the Power Grid Policy Analysis draft report, and the executive summary of the final version of the School Exposure Assessment Survey. Over the next month, we hope to post the school policy analysis project software model on his site to make it more easily available during the public comment period. We are in the process of updating some of the pages' content to reflect the progress on these and other projects. Each week the site gets between 200 and 300 visitors.

OTHER EDUCATION UNIT ACTIVITIES

Response to Public Questions: The Education Unit responded to dozens of telephone calls, e-mails, and letters from people with questions about EMF. The program received questions from as far away as South Korea, and responded to questions from students, families, and government agencies.

Support of the Research Unit: The Education Unit supported the Research Unit by creating cover materials and announcements for the products released over the last two months, which included the draft School Policy Analysis Project materials and the final School Exposure Assessment Survey report.

Video on Correcting Improper Wiring in Schools: As reported in the program's January newsletter, the Education Unit is still working to coordinate the mailing of this video to each of California's 1000 school districts. The last newsletter noted Karl Riley's role in making this video, but incorrectly identified him as an electrician; he should have been described as an EMF consultant specializing in wiring and Code matters.

OUTREACH

In the hopes of stimulating comment on the draft School Policy Project, Raymond Neutra provided an overview of the EMF Program's various school-related projects and distributed copies of the School Policy Project draft executive summary to four different groups in February and early March. First Dr. Neutra and Jessica Hecht led a round table at the annual meeting of the Coalition for Adequate School Housing in Sacramento, where they spoke with school facilities officials from across the state. The program also staffed a table to distribute more information at this conference. Dr. Neutra then presented on the school projects at the annual meeting of the utility companies that sponsor the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI), which took place at the EPRI offices in Palo Alto. Finally, Dr. Neutra spoke to two groups affiliated with the California Parent Teacher Association (PTA): the State PTA Health Commission and the regional PTA for Alameda County. Program staff will also present on these school-related projects at a meeting of the Oakland PTA board on March 21, 2000.

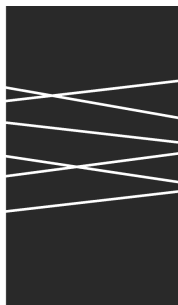
Milestones Reached

- ✿ No-cost extension approved by the CPUC
- ✿ Risk Evaluation Guidelines approved by the SAP at their meeting on February 17, 2000
- ✿ Final Draft of the School Exposure Study complete
- ✿ Public comment draft of the School Policy Project completed and distributed
- ✿ Epidemiology Workshop papers and discussion summaries sent to the journal *Bioelectromagnetics*
- ✿ Detlof von Winterfeldt's detailed responses to comments on the draft Power Grid Policy Project distributed to SAC, final SAC/contractor conference held on February 18, 2000
- ✿ First School Policy Project workshop held on February 16, 2000, second telephone workshop scheduled for March 29, 2000
- ✿ Contractor literature summaries, to be used as background in the Risk Evaluation, received from Dr. Walt Rogers and Dr. Claire Sherman

EMF PROGRAM STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

Raymond Neutra	622-4905	rneutra@dhs.ca.gov	Jessica Hecht	622-4430	jhecht@dhs.ca.gov
Alvin Leonard	622-4432	alvinleonard@yahoo.com	Jack Collins	622-4431	emfadmin@dnai.com
Vincent Del Pizzo	622-4418	delpizzo@yahoo.com	Myra Alcaide	622-4433	MAlcaid1@dhs.ca.gov
Geraldine Lee	622-5091	gerrilee17@yahoo.com	Webb Sprague	622-4500	emf@dnai.com

main phone (510) 622-4500, fax (510) 622-4505



California Electric and Magnetic Fields Program

A project of the California Department of Health Services and the Public Health Institute
Elihu Harris State Office Building
1515 Clay St., 17th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612